

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151793

PARIS FOR NESCO, ROME FOR FODAG, VIENNA FOR UNIDO, USIAEA

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 2066 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
GENEVA DTD 28 JUN

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2066

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, APER, UN

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION - GENEVA GS-LEVEL SALARIES

1. LEADING FIFTH COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN EXCHANGING VIEWS RECENTLY ON GENEVA GS SALARY PROBLEM IN LIGHT OF GENERAL EXPECTATION THAT CURRENT ICSC SURVEY WILL LEAD TO FINING THAT GS ARE BEING OVERPAID BY 15-20 PERCENT.

2. JAPANESE AND CANADIAN MEMBERS OF GROUP CALLED ON ASYG DEBATIN END OF LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE MATTER. DEBATIN SAID SYG
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WALDHEIM VERY CONCERNED THAT ICSC FINDING MAY LEAD TO SOME TYPE OF QTE JOB ACTION UNQTE IN GENEVA AND WOULD UNDERCUT SYG SETTLEMENT MADE IN SPRING OF LAST YEAR. MISSION HAS LEARNED THAT WALDHEIM APPROACHED ICSC CHAIRMAN QUIJANO AND ASKED HIM TO QTE GO EASY UNQTE, POINTING OUT POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY SYG'S CONCERN THAT HIS GENEVA VISIT THIS SUMMER COULD BE COMPROMISED BY TOO RADICAL A FINDING BY ICSC. PREVIOUSLY WALDHEIM

HAD RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION FROM ONE OF THE GENEVA STAFF
FACTIONS EXPRESSING
CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE ICSC FINDINGS AND IMPLYING POSSIBLE JOB
ACTION; WALDHEIM'S RESPONSE REPORTEDLY WAS THAT ISSUE HAD TO BE
DEFUSED SINCE IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO HIS IMAGE AND,
THEREFORE, INTER ALIA HE MAY SEND ASYG DEBATIN TO GENEVA TO PER-
SONALLY HELP DEFUSE ISSUE. (DEBATIN EXPRESSED TO MISOFF HIS
STRONG OPPOSITION TO GETTING INVOLVED.)

3. THE AD REFERENDUM CONSENSUS AMONG INTERESTED WESTERN DELE-
GATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE PROBLEM (US, UK, FRG,
FRANCE, JAPAN, BELGIUM, AND CANADA) WAS THAT WE SHOULD LET IT BE
KNOWN TO DEBATIN AND OTHERS THAT WE EXPECT THE SYG TO SUPPORT THE
ICSC AND THAT WE IN TURN WOULD SUPPORT THE SYG AT THE NEXT GENERAL
ASSEMBLY. ALL AGREED THAT CS SALARIES WOULD HAVE TO BE BROUGHT
BACK INTO LINE ON A GRADUAL BASIS THROUGH A FREEZE RATHER THAN AN
ACTUAL DECREASE, ALTHOUGH ONE DELEGATE SUGGESTED THAT FOR TACTI-
CAL PURPOSES A SMALL DECREASE MIGHT BE PROPOSED AT THE GA. THE SAME
DELEGATE REPORTED THAT THE ICSC WAS GIVING EVERY BENEFIT OF THE
DOUBT TO THE STAFF AND COULD AS EASILY HAVE FOUND AN
OVERPAYMENT OF 25-30 AS 15-20 PERCENT.

4. ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE GROUP EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN
ABOUT PRESSURES TO ACCOMMODATE STAFF ARISING FROM ADMINISTRATIONS
OF THE GENEVA SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND FROM DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA.

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5. ALL AGREED THAT THE CRITICAL ARENA ON THIS QUESTION WILL BE
THE 32ND GA AND THAT NOT ONLY THE ICSC FINDINGS ON THE SALARY
GAP WILL BE AT ISSUE BUT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE SYG WILL
CONTINUE TO HAVE THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SETTING GS SALARIES.

6. CANADA AND JAPAN ARE CONTEMPLATING A FURTHER DEMARCHE AT
THE PERM REP LEVEL TO WALDHEIM.
LEONARD UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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